

# Nnenia Campbell

Nnenia Campbell is a doctoral candidate in the CU Boulder Department of Sociology, research assistant at the Natural Hazards Center, and managing editor of the Natural Hazards Review. Nnenia's dissertation research involves a qualitative examination of the 2013 floods in Boulder County, specifically focusing on social capital and disaster recovery among adults aged 60 and older.

# **Social Capital and Disaster Recovery Among Older Adults: A Case Study of the 2013 Colorado Floods**

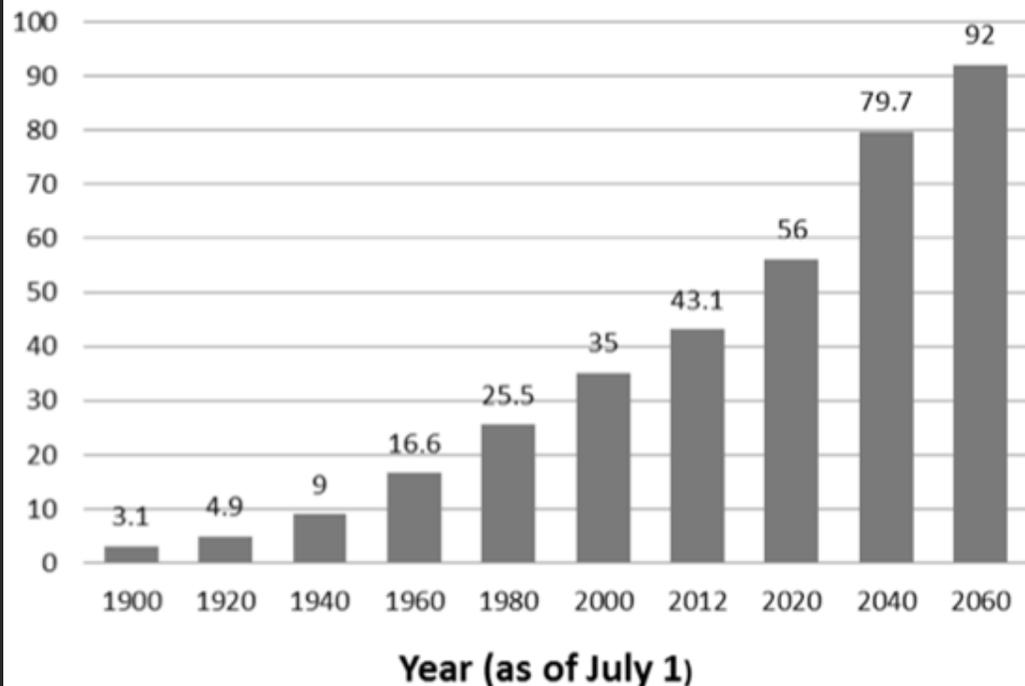
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**Understanding Risk Boulder**  
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# Demographic Shift: Implications for Disaster Vulnerability

**Figure 1: Number of Persons 65+,  
1900 to 2060 (numbers in millions)**



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- Growth within senior population
- Implications for financial stability, living arrangements
- Intersection with disaster

# Health Status and Disaster Vulnerability

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- A black and white photograph of a wheelchair positioned on a balcony. The wheelchair is the central focus, with its large rear wheels and smaller front casters visible. It is leaning against a dark metal railing. The background shows a blurred view of trees and a building, suggesting an outdoor setting. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.
- Chronic health conditions
  - Physical disability
  - Cognitive impairment
  - Mental health

# Social Capital



- Social networks in advanced age
- Implications for disaster situations
  - Response
  - Recovery

# Agency and Resilience

- **Dominance of vulnerability perspective**
- **Diversity within aging population**
- **Capacity as a post-disaster resource**

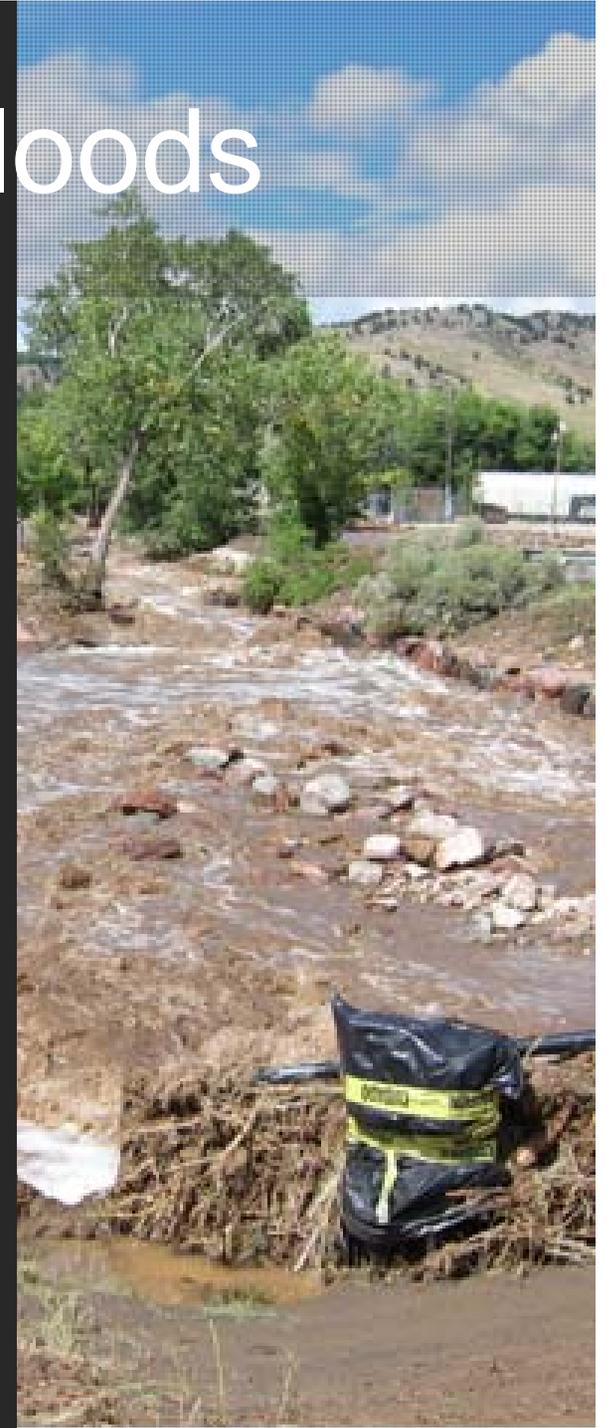


# Purpose

- (a) To analyze how various forms of social capital influence older adults' recovery trajectories.**
- (b) To examine how the social context shapes the way seniors interpret and respond to disaster-related experiences.**

# September 2013 Floods

- Severed access to neighborhoods and communities
- Estimated \$4 billion in damage across state
- 16,000 structures damaged
- 10 fatalities, 5 aged 60 and older



# Methods and Analysis

Data Collection		
Interviews with seniors	Interviews with key stakeholders	Secondary data
~40	~20	TBD

Data Analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Review of transcripts, notes, secondary data</li><li>•Memo recording</li><li>•Modified open coding</li></ul>

# Preliminary Findings: Individual Level

- Challenges arranging relief and recovery assistance
- Social network disruption
- Senior caregivers
- Resilience and agency

# Preliminary Findings: Individual Level

*“It’s one thing for someone in their 40s to have to walk an extra eighth of a mile to get to their car; it’s another thing for someone who is in their 60s or 70s.”*

# Preliminary Findings: Individual Level

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- **Social network disruption**
- Senior caregivers
- Resilience and agency

# Preliminary Findings: Individual Level

*“This neighborhood doesn’t neighbor”*

# Preliminary Findings: Individual Level

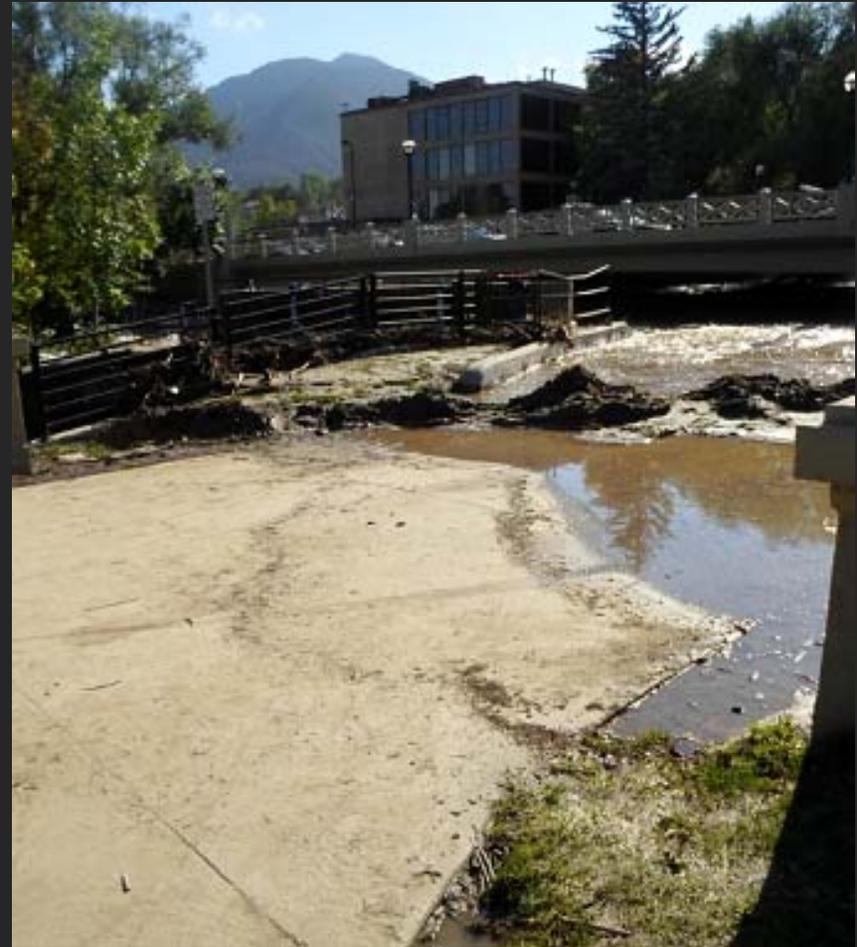
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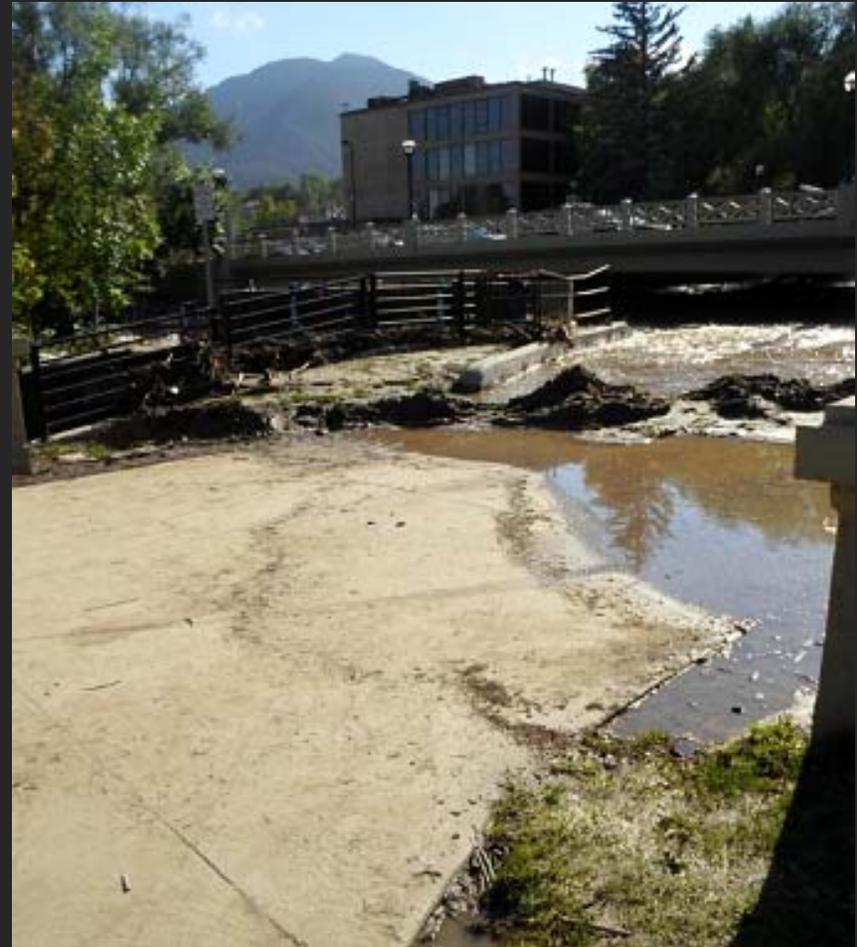
# Preliminary Findings: Organizational Level

- Established client relationships facilitated communication and cooperation
- Challenges due to influx of resources



# Preliminary Findings: Organizational Level

- Established client relationships and relationships between service providers facilitated communication and cooperation
- **Challenges due to influx of resources**



# Conclusions

- Findings highlight importance of pre-existing relationships within and between organizations that support seniors.
- Greater attention to challenges during longer term following disaster in addition to support needed in the initial stages.
- Need to recognize factors that mediate outcomes for seniors.

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# Acknowledgements

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